JOURNAL

of the

UNITED NATIONS

TUESDAY, 1 DECEMBER 1998 No. 1998/230

PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS AND AGENDA

SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Tuesday, 1 December 1998

SECURITY COUNCIL

SECURITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED BY RESOLUTION 661 (1990) CONCERNING THE SITUATION BETWEEN IRAQ AND KUWAIT

3.30 p.m.*	176th meeting (closed)	Conference Room 7

* The Chairman will give an oral briefing to interested members of the United Nations in the same room, immediately following the meeting. Following the oral briefing, the Chairman will give a briefing to the press in the Press Room.

Announcement

The monthly tentative forecast has been made available to Member States in accordance with the Notes by the President of the Security Council dated 27 July 1993 (S/26176) and 30 April 1998 (S/1998/354). In accordance with the aforementioned decisions, copies of the tentative forecast have been placed in the delegations' boxes and may be collected at the delegations' "pick-up area".

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Fifty-third session

GENERAL COMMITTEE

9 a.m. 4th meeting Conference Room 4

Adoption of the agenda of the fifty-third regular session of the General Assembly and allocation of items [8]:

a) Agenda item 167 (Armed aggression against the Democratic Republic of the Congo)

b) Request for the inclusion of an additional item submitted by the Dominican Republic (A/53/234)

10 a.m. 74th PLENARY MEETING General Assembly Hall

Question of Palestine [39]:

(a) Report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (A/53/35)

(b) Report of the Secretary-General (A/53/652)

(c) Draft resolutions (A/53/L.48, A/53/L.49, A/53/L.50 and A/53/L.51)

3 p.m. 75th PLENARY MEETING General Assembly Hall

The situation in the Middle East [40]:

a) Reports of the Secretary General (A/53/550 and A/53/652)

b) Draft resolutions (A/53/L.52, A/53/L.53 and Corr.1 (English, Spanish and Russian only))

Committees

SECOND COMMITTEE

3 p.m.-6 p.m. 42nd meeting Conference Room 2

1. Macroeconomic policy questions [91]

Action on draft resolutions A/C.2/53/L.20 and L.57

(a) Trade and development

Action on draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.26/Rev.1

(b) Financing of development, including net transfer of resources between developing and developed countries

Action on draft resolutions A/C.2/53/L.4 and L.55

(c) Commodities

Action on draft resolutions A/C.2/53/L.5 and L.51

2. Sustainable development and international economic co-operation [93]

(d) Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership

Action on draft resolutions A/C.2/53/L.36 and L.49

Document A/C.2/52/L.14

3. Environment and sustainable development [94]

Action on draft resolutions A/C.2/53/L.17 and L.59

Action on draft resolutions A/C.2/53/L.21 and L.58

(a) Implementation of and follow-up to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, including the outcome of the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21

Action on draft resolutions A/C.2/53/L.25 and L.53

(d) Convention on Biological Diversity

Action of draft resolutions A/C.2/53/L.29 and L.54

(e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

Action on draft resolutions A/C.2/53/L.16 and L.52

4. Operational activities for development [95]

Action on draft resolutions A/C.2/53/L.8 and L.56

5. Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2001) [98]

Action on draft resolutions A/C.2/53/L.27 and L.48

6. Draft biennial programme of work for the Second Committee for 1999 and 2000 (A/C.2/53/L.50)

7. Closure of the work of the Second Committee

FIFTH COMMITTEE

10 a.m.	38th meeting	Conference Room 3

1. Programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 [113]

(a) Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.18/Rev.1 (A/C.5/53/36)

(b) Programme budget implications of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.3/53/L.23 (A/C.5/53/37)

Introduction and general discussion

2. Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations [112]

(a) Procurement reform (A/52/887, A/52/1010, A/C.5/52/46, A/53/271 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and A/53/692)

Continuation of general discussion

(b) Administrative arrangements for the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO (A/C.5/52/25, A/C.5/52/45, A/53/7/Add.3 and A/C.5/53/38)

Introduction and general discussion

3. Human resources management [119]

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/53/691)

Conclusion of general discussion

Morning*-1 p.m.	informal consultations (closed)	Conference Room 5

Informal consultations on agenda item 117 (Pattern of Conferences (A/53/32 and Corr.1, A/51/946, A/52/7, A/52/685, A/52/803, A/52/1000, A/53/16, A/53/21, A/53/221, A/53/257, A/53/508 and A/53/669)

3 p.m.-6 p.m.	informal consultations (closed)	Conference Room 5

Informal consultations on agenda items 135 (Financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 (A/52/520, A/52/891, A/C.5/52/47, A/C.5/53/12, A/C.5/53/13 and A/53/651)) and 137 (Financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994 (A/52/520, A/52/784, A/C.5/52/48, A/C.5/53/14, A/C.5/53/15 and Corr.1 (French only) and A/53/659))

6.30 p.m.-9.30 p.m.	informal consultations (closed)	Conference Room 5

Informal consultations on agenda item 113 (Programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999: Development account (A/52/1009, A/53/7/Add.1, A/53/374, A/53/7/Add.4, A/C.5/53/30, A/53/664 and A/C.5/53/40))

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* Following the adjournment of the 38th meeting of the Fifth Committee.

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS

10.30 a.m.- 1 p.m.	closed meeting	Conference Room 10
3 p.m. 6 p.m.	closed meeting	Conference Room 10

Subjects

1. Draft Reports
2. The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti

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SECOND COMMITTEE

Keynote presentation

There will be an address on the theme "What's Wrong with Current Economics?", sponsored by the Second Committee, *today*, 1 December 1998, from 11.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Conference Room 2. Mr. Paul P. Streeten, eminent economist and Chairman of the Editorial Board of the journal *World Development*, will make a presentation. H.E. Mr. Bagher Asadi, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Chairman of the Second Committee, will chair the meeting. Members of permanent missions and Secretariat staff are invited to attend.

MEETINGS OTHER THAN MEETINGS OF UNITED NATIONS BODIES

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Tuesday, 1 December 1998

GROUP OF 77
(on Second Committee matters: trade and development)

10 a.m.-11 a.m.	closed meeting	Conference Room 6

GROUP OF 77
(on Fifth Committee matters)

1.45 p.m.-2.45 p.m.	closed meeting	Conference Room 5

MOVEMENT OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES:

WORKING GROUP ON DISARMAMENT

4 p.m.	closed meeting	Conference Room A

MOVEMENT OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES:

STATES PARTIES TO THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY

Afternoon*-6 p.m.	closed meeting	Conference Room A

* Following the adjournment of the Working Group on Disarmament of the Movement of Non-aligned Countries.

* * *

There will be meetings of the Technical Group of the Panel of External Auditors of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) today, 1 December 1998, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. in Conference Room 8.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Wednesday, 2 December 1998

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Fifty-third session

10.30 a.m. — 76th PLENARY MEETING — General Assembly Hall

The situation in the Middle East [40]:

(a) Reports of the Secretary-General (A/53/550 and A/53/652)

(b) Draft resolutions (A/53/L.52, A/53/L.53 and Corr.1 (English, Spanish and Russian only))

3 p.m. — 77th PLENARY MEETING — General Assembly Hall

Fiftieth anniversary of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide: draft resolution (A/53/L.47) [46 (b)]

Committees

FIFTH COMMITTEE

10 a.m.	informal consultations (closed)	Conference Room 5
3 p.m.	informal consultations (closed)	Conference Room 5
6.30 p.m.	informal consultations (closed)	Conference Room 5

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS

10.30 a.m.	closed meeting	Conference Room 10
3 p.m.	closed meeting	Conference Room 10

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The Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters Related to the Security Council will hold its first meeting for the fifty-third session organizational matters (appointment of vice-chairmen) on Wednesday, 2 December 1998, at 10 a.m. in the General Assembly Hall.

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The Ad Hoc Committee of the General Assembly for the Announcement of Voluntary Contributions to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East will meet on Thursday, 3 December 1998, at 10 a.m. in the Trusteeship Council Chamber.

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The 1999 organizational session of the Disarmament Commission will take place on Wednesday, 2 December 1998, at 10 a.m. in Conference Room 4. All Member States are invited to attend.

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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

An informal consultation to consider the organization of the work of the forty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women and the Working Group on the Optional Protocol will be held by the Bureau of the Commission on Wednesday, 2 December 1998, at 10 a.m. in Conference Room 6.

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The Technical Subgroup of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics will meet, under the chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Ahmad Kamal (Pakistan), on Tuesday, 8 December 1998, at 10 a.m. sharp in Conference Room A.

* * *

The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations will hold its resumed 1998 session from 14 to 18 December 1998 in Conference Room 1. The agenda is contained in document E/C.2/1998/1.

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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

The next meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on Informatics will take place over the whole day on Friday, 11 December 1998, in the Trusteeship Council Chamber, under the Chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Ahmad Kamal (Pakistan).

The meeting will be devoted to the Year 2000 Issue. It will focus on international cooperation, contingency planning for priority sectors and crisis management.

National Y2K Coordinators from all Member States have been invited. In order to help the developing countries and countries in transition ensure their participation, limited funding to cover costs of travel and stay has been made available by the Trust Fund of the World Bank on a first- come-first-served basis. All delegations are invited to participate.

Further information can be requested from the Information Technology Services Division of the Office of Central Support Services of the Secretariat (Mr. Eduardo Blinder (tel.: 212-963-8194, fax: 212-963-0952, e-mail: blinder @un.org)).

MEETINGS OTHER THAN MEETINGS OF UNITED NATIONS BODIES

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of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the
Secretariat of the United Nations.

Informal consultations

H.E. Mr. Anwarul Karim Chowdhury (Bangladesh) will coordinate informal consultations on the adoption of the draft Declaration and Programme of Action on Culture of Peace (agenda item 31) on Wednesday, 2 December 1998, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Conference Room 9.

* * *

Informal briefing

There will be a briefing by the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea on the theme "Seoul Forum: Asia-Africa Cooperation in Export Promotion (14-16 December 1998)", as well as on the International Expert Meeting on "Sustainable Consumption Patterns: Trends and Traditions in East Asia" (27-29 January 1999) on Wednesday, 2 December 1998, from 1.45 p.m. to 2.45 p.m. in Conference Room 6. Members of permanent missions, Secretariat staff, representatives of non-governmental organizations and the media are invited to attend.

* * *

Informal meeting

The Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO) will hold a meeting to celebrate its fiftieth anniversary on the theme "CONGO at fifty: a reaffirmation of commitment". The event, sponsored by the Department of Public Information, will take place on Thursday, 3 December 1998, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Conference Room 1. The keynote speaker will be Ms. Louise Fréchette, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations. Members of permanent missions, Secretariat staff, representatives of non-governmental organizations and the accredited media are invited to attend.

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Orientation course

The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) is organizing an orientation course on the Security Council for members of the Council. The course will be held from Monday 7 to Wednesday 16 December 1998.

A letter on this subject, including an information note and a nomination form, was addressed to the permanent missions of all States that will be members of the Council in 1999. For further information, please contact Ms. Maud Graham (room DC1-603, tel.: 963-9196).

SUMMARY OF MEETINGS

Monday, 30 November 1998

SECURITY COUNCIL

3950th meeting

The situation in Africa

Report of the Secretary-Geenral on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Afrfica (S/1998/318)

The agenda was adopted without objection.

The President made a statement on behalf of the Council (S/PRST/1998/35).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Fifty-third session

72nd plenary meeting

The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina: draft resolution (A/53/L.55) [41]

The representative of Austria (on behalf of the European Union and of Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia) made a statement.

The representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina made a statement in the course of which he introduced draft resolution A/53/L.55.

Statements were made by the representatives of Bangladesh, Malaysia, Croatia, Hungary, Indonesia, Ukraine, Jordan, Pakistan, the Czech Republic, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Slovenia.

The representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina orally revised draft resolution A/53/L.55.

The General Assembly adopted draft resolution A/53/L.55 as orally revised (resolution 53/35).

The Assembly concluded its consideration of agenda item 41.

Report of the Economic and Social Council: report of the Fifth Committee (A/53/694) [12]

The General Assembly adopted the draft decision recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 4 of its report (A/53/694).

The Assembly concluded its consideration of the chapters of the report of the Economic and Social Council allocated to the Fifth Committee.

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations: report of the Fifth Committee (A/53/464/Add.2) [118]

The General Assembly adopted the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 9 of its report (A/53/464/Add.2) (resolution 53/36).

The Assembly concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 118.

Programme of work

The President informed the General Assembly that agenda item 18 and the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) would be taken up on Thursday, 3 December 1998, in the afternoon; the reports of the First Committee would be taken up on Friday, 4 December 1998, in the afternoon; the reports of the Sixth Committee would be taken up on Tuesday, 8 December 1998, in the afternoon and the reports of the Third Committee would be taken up on Wednesday, 9 December 1998, in the afternoon.

73rd plenary meeting

Question of Palestine [39]:

(a) Report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (A/53/35);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General (A/53/652)

(c) Draft resolutions (A/53/L.48, A/53/L.49, A/53/L.50 and A/53/L.51)

The Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People made a statement in the course of which he introduced draft resolutions A/53/L.48, A/53/L.49, A/53/L.50 and A/53/L.51.

The Rapporteur of the Committee introduced the Committee's Report (A/53/35).

The Head of the Observer Delegation of Palestine made a statement.

Statements were made by the representatives of Austria (on behalf of the European Union and of Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Iceland, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia), Indonesia, China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Botswana, Bangladesh, the United Arab Emirates, Israel, Niger, Malaysia and India.

Programme of work

The President informed the Assembly that the Open-ended Informal Consultations of the Plenary on Agenda Item 30 (United Nations reform: measures and proposals) would take place on Thursday, 3 December 1998, at 10.30 a.m. in Conference Room 4.

Committees

FIFTH COMMITTEE 37th meeting

Programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 [113]

The Committee resumed its consideration of this agenda item.

Tenth progress report of the Secretary-General on the Integrated Management Information System

The Under-Secretary-General for Management introduced the report of the Secretary-General (A/53/573).

The Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions introduced the related report of that Committee (A/53/7/Add.7).

Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations [112]

The Committee resumed its consideration of this agenda item.

Procurement reform

The Assistant Secretary-General for Central Support Services introduced the reports of the Secretary-General (A/53/271 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and A/C.5/52/46).

The Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions introduced the related report of that Committee (A/53/692).

Statements were made by the representatives of Panama (on behalf of the Rio Group) and Uganda.

Human resources management [119]

The Committee resumed its consideration of this agenda item.

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

The Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions introduced and orally corrected the report of that Committee (A/53/691) as it related to documents A/53/327, A/53/385, A/53/414, A/53/526 and Add.1, A/53/548 and A/53/642).

Financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 [135] (A/52/520, A/52/891, A/C.5/52/47, A/C.5/53/12, A/C.5/53/13 and A/53/651)

Financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994 [137] (A/52/520, A/52/784, A/C.5/52/48, A/C.5/53/14, A/C.5/53/15 and Corr.1 (French only) and A/53/659)

The Committee resumed its consideration of these agenda items.

The Chief of the Political, Legal and Common Services Service of the Programme Planning and Budget Division made a statement and responded to questions raised during the general discussion on these items.

Statements were made by the representatives of Uganda and Canada.

The Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions responded to questions raised.

Organization of work

The Chairman made a statement regarding the programme of work of the Fifth Committee for the week of 30 November to 4 December.

Statements were made by the representatives of Panama (on behalf of the Rio Group), Cuba, Uganda, Mexico and Morocco. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions also made a statement.

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COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE 242nd meeitng

International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

The Chairman made a statement.

The Deputy Secretary-General made a statement.

The President of the General Assembly made a statement.

The President of the Security Council made a statement.

The Permanent Observer of Palestine read out a message from Mr. Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization and President of the Palestinian Authority.

The Chairman of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and other Arabs of the Occupied Territories made a statement.

The representative of Qatar read a message of the Chairman of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

The representative of South Africa read a message of the Chairman of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

The representative of Burkina Faso read a message of the Chairman of the Organization of African Unity.

The Under-Secretary-General of the League of Arab States read a message of the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States.

Mr. David Graybeal, International Movement for Fraternal Union among Races and Peoples read a message on behalf of the international network of non governmental organizations on the question of Palestine.

Messages on the occasion were received from the Heads of State of the following countries: Afghanistan, Algeria, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Chile, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, Guinea, Guyana, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Namibia, Niger, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe.

Messages were received on the occasion from the Heads of Government of the following countries: Bangladesh, Belarus, Belize, China, India, Lesotho, Malta, Pakistan, Thailand and Turkey.

Messages were received from the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the following countries: Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador, Japan, Oman, Syrian Arab Republic and Ukraine.

A message was received from the Government of Uruguay.

A message was received from the President of the Council of Ministers of the European Union and the Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

A message was received from UNESCO.

Messages were received on the occasion from the following non-governmental organizations: Committee for Israeli-Palestinian Dialogue, Federación Palestina del Perú, General Union of Palestinian Women, Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples, Organización Continental Latinoamericana y Caribeña de Estudiantes and Profesionales Pro Paz Israel-Palestina en Mexico.

A statement was made by the Head of the Political Department of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

A concluding statement was made by the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC,
SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS
Nineteenth session
United Nations Office at Geneva

THURSDAY, 26 NOVEMBER 1998

45th meeting

Substantive issues arising in the implementation of the Covenant [3]

The Committee continued its consideration of the draft general comment on the domestic application of the Covenant, considered the draft general comment on the role of national institutions in the protection of economic, social and cultural rights and began its consideration of the draft general comment on benchmarks for assessing progress in the realization of economic, social and cultural rights.

46th meeting

Consideration of reports [6]

(a) *Reports submitted by States parties under articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant*

The Committee resumed its consideration of the third periodic report of Canada (E/1994/104/Add.17).

In accordance with rule 62 of the Committee's Rules of procedure, representatives of the State party were present at the meeting, introduced the report submitted by their Government and replied to questions raised and comments made by the members of the Committee.

FRIDAY, 27 NOVEMBER 1998

47th and 48th meetings

Consideration of reports [6]

(a) *Reports submitted by States parties under articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant*

The Committee resumed its consideration of the third periodic report of Canada (E/1994/104/Add.17).

In accordance with rule 62 of the Committee's Rules of procedure, representatives of the State party were present at the meetings, introduced the report submitted by their Government and replied to questions raised and comments made by the members of the Committee.

SIGNATURES, RATIFICATIONS, ETC.

[MULTILATERAL TREATIES DEPOSITED WITH THE SECRETARY-GENERAL]

Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction. Oslo, 18 September 1997

Ratification: Thailand (27 November 1998)*

Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. Rome, 17 July 1998

Signature: Burkina Faso (30 November 1998)
Signature: Côte d'Ivoire (30 November 1998)
Signature: Lesotho (30 November 1998)
Signature: Tajikistan (30 November 1998)
Signature: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (30 November 1998)

* Date of receipt of the relevant documents.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

Exhibition

The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, in cooperation with the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations will present a Palestinian cultural exhibit entitled "Bethlehem 2000," in observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. The exhibit will be displayed in the Public Lobby of the General Assembly Building until Sunday, 6 December 1998.

Screening of films

In observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People has arranged the screening of the films entitled "Al Nakba: Palestinian Catastrophe, 1948" and "Journey to Bethlehem 2000". They can be viewed at the cultural exhibit area from *today*, 1 December until 4 December 1998.

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World AIDS Day

World AIDS Day will be observed at United Nations Headquarters *today*, 1 December 1998. The programme, co-sponsored by the Department of Public Information and the American Foundation for AIDS Research (AmFAR), in association with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), will begin at 10.30 a.m. in the Economic and Social Council Chamber. The Deputy Secretary-General, Ms. Louise Fréchette, and the Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, Mr. Kensaku Hogen will participate. A panel discussion on "Youth: A Force for Change" with the participation, among others, of actress Sharon Stone, Chairman of AmFar's Campaign for AIDS Research, and James Carmichael, Representative, UNAIDS, will follow. Members of permanent missions, Secretariat staff, representatives of non-governmental organizations and the accredited media are invited to attend.

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International Day of Disabled Persons

The theme for the observance of the Day in 1998 is "Arts, culture and independent living". A message of the Secretary-General, as well as further information, can be found on the Internet at http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/disid98.htm

On Thursday, 3 December 1998, from 1.15 p.m. to 2.45 p.m., a panel discussion on "Independent living: lifecycle approaches to sustainable and secure livelihoods of persons with disabilities", organised by the Division for Social Policy and Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, will take place in Conference Room 4 with the participation of distinguished experts from the academic, non-governmental and private sectors. Members of permanent missions, Secretariat staff, representatives of non-governmental organizations and the accredited media are invited to attend.

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Chairmen of regional groups

The following information regarding the chairmanship of the regional groups for the month of December has been communicated to the Secretariat:

African States:
Senegal
H.E. Mr. Ibra Deguène Ka

Asian States:
Pakistan
H.E. Mr. Ahmad Kamal

Eastern European States:
Russian Federation
H.E. Mr. Sergey V. Lavrov

Latin American and Caribbean States:
El Salvador
H.E. Mr. Ricardo G. Castañeda-Cornejo

Western European and Other States:
Autriche
H.E. Dr. Ernst Sucharipa

Published at Headquarters, New York,
by the Department of General Assembly Affairs
and Conference Services

98-35461